

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

PETER T. KING, CHAIRMAN <http://homeland.house.gov>



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Chairman King Commends Bonner's Leadership

Washington, DC (Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2005)—House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter T. King (R-NY) today applauded Robert C. Bonner's service as the first Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency.

Bonner was sworn in as the 17th Commissioner of U.S. Customs two weeks after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Soon after the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on March 1, 2003, Bonner was named the first Commissioner of CBP, overseeing the merger of three separate agencies and 42,000 employees. Bonner announced his resignation this morning.

"I am thankful for Rob Bonner's commitment to America and his dedication to improving border security," King said. "Under his leadership, CBP has taken the right steps to better secure our borders from terrorist attacks while maintaining a welcoming spirit to legitimate travelers. The Committee will continue to work closely with CBP and its new Commissioner as we provide DHS with the tools they need to prevent terrorists from entering the country."

During his time at CBP, Bonner made it a priority to "push [America's] zone of security out beyond our physical borders," as he stated in a January 2005 speech before the Council on Foreign Relations. Under his leadership, CBP has launched and implemented the Container Security Initiative (CSI) in 24 foreign countries and 39 ports of entry to pre-screen containers prior to loading on ships destined for the United States.

CBP has also apprehended almost four million illegal aliens since 9/11, increased the number of Border Patrol Agents to 11,200 nationwide, implemented the NEXUS and SENTRI programs to expedite pre-screened low-risk travelers, and established the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) to partner with importers, carriers, brokers, and other industry sectors and secure the U.S. and international supply chains from possible intrusion by terrorist organizations.

Prior to his service as Commissioner, Bonner served as the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, a U.S. District Judge, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and a partner in the Los Angeles law office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

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